

*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**The Restriction Requirement*

The restriction requirement requires Applicants to select one of the following groups of claims for examination:

Group 1 – claims 1-16, 22-32, and 43, directed to a screening method for a somatic nuclear reprogramming substance comprising contacting a somatic cell comprising a marker gene operably linked to the expression control region of an ECAT gene with a test substance, as well as somatic cells,

Group 2 – claim 21, directed to a substance derived from ES cells with the NAT1 gene destroyed,

Group 3 – claims 33-41, directed to a selection method for ES-like cells comprising contacting somatic cells comprising a marker gene operably linked to the expression control region of an ECAT gene with a somatic cell nuclear reprogramming substance and selecting cells expressing the marker gene, and

Group 4 – claims 44-57 and 61-69, directed to a screening method for a substance for the maintenance of undifferentiated state and pluripotency of ES cells comprising contacting an ES cell comprising a marker gene operably linked to the expression control gene of an ECAT gene with a test substance and determining the expression of the marker gene.

Applicants' Election

Applicants elect, without traverse, the subject matter of Group 1 (i.e., claims 1-16, 22-32, and 43) for further examination.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue any non-elected subject matter that is ultimately canceled in the present application in one or more divisional applications in accordance with U.S. patent practice.

Conclusion

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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